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FUNCTIONS OF SHOP CELLS  
OF THE NORTH KOREAN LABOR PARTY

The shop cells are the foundation of the NKLP (North Korean Labor Party). Their basic responsibilities include: (1) influencing the public by exemplary work; (2) recruiting and assimilating new members; and (3) indoctrinating the members. Except for the cadres, the political and cultural levels of the NKLP members are below the prescribed standard. The local party units above cells are cautioned against neglecting the close guidance of the shop cells.

Shop Cells as the Foundation of NKLP

The NKLP (North Korean Labor Party) is composed of progressive elements of a vast working public -- laborers, farmers, intelligentsia, etc. At the base of its organization are the shop cells. This is the distinguishing characteristic differentiating the NKLP from other democratic parties in Korea.

In the process of establishing a democratic nation and in carrying out its various democratic functions, the NKLP has operated through the shop cells which are rooted in the large class of working people. Recently the NKLP carried out a great democratic election sponsored by the North Korean Provisional People's Committee, by mobilizing, organizing, and educating many thousands of nonparty members through shop cells in each election area. The NKLP also obtained good results in other important activities of the shop cells. These tasks consisted in carrying out democratic land reform, labor protection law, laws on equality of sexes, taxes in kind, and nationalization of industries. The NKLP has led the vast working people toward the establishment of the Democratic Front for Unification of the Fatherland, in cooperation with various democratic parties and social groups, in the course of carrying out its political policies.

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The NKLP recruits progressive laborers and farmers who are actively engaged in productive activities. The NKLP also attempts to consolidate its strength by absorbing progressive intelligentsia who are actively engaged in political and cultural activities, and by integrating nonparty street cells with shop cells. The NKLP reinforces its power by popularizing democratic administration, democratic economy, and democratic culture, all of which are demanded by the Korean people.

Fundamentally, the NKLP is an aggregation of shop cells, from which it derives its strength. The party influences and attracts the vast body of working people around it by persuading them to emulate the exemplary work of party members in the shop cells. In this way, the party strengthens itself and maintains its growth.

The activities of the shop cells represent the activities of the party itself. The activities of the cells develop along the actual function of the party. The cell, which is the basic organizational unit of the party, can use its own judgment as concerns the matter of organizing party members.

The shop cells have the right and responsibility of recruiting and accepting members, collecting party fees, registering and indoctrinating new members, instructing and inspecting their activities, reporting their activities to a higher unit, and delivering instructions from higher units to cell members. The shop cells attempt to deepen the members' "sense of attachment" to the party, broaden the esprit de corps, solidify their political concepts, and elevate their cultural level. The shop cells ensure unity of the party, close association between the party and the masses, and see that their activities are carried out according to the party line.

The shop cells propagandize the political tenets of the party to the public, and educate the public in the party's political strategy and tactics so that the public may participate in the establishment of a democratic Korea by rallying under the party's slogans and tenets.

The shop cells are established in factories, mines, railroads, harbors, offices, schools, farms, villages, public and semipublic establishments, as well as on the streets. Membership in the shop cells totals more than 600,000.

In leading the nonmember masses, the NKLP never imposes its authority over them, but guides them patiently and inconspicuously, through demonstrations and the exemplary work of cell members who are rooted deeply in the public.

#### Responsibilities of Shop Cells

The shop cell is not only the basic unit in the organizational form, but is also the active agent through which all party activities are conducted. The party clearly shows its aim in fighting for the daily interests of the working people. Thus the NKLP today, with its ultimate goal of accomplishing the historic task of building a democratic nation, works for the people's interests to establish the sovereign independence and freedom of the Fatherland. Under these circumstances, the following responsibilities are entrusted to each cell and each member of the cell:

##### 1. Influencing Public

A shop cell must measure the success of its operations according to the degree of its success in influencing the public with the basic tenets of the party. Consequently, it is a prime duty of party members to influence the public by constantly taking positive actions toward the public. The cell conferences, attended only by members, are not the means of

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strengthening the cell. Cell strength is obtained only when the cell and its members receive the support and patronage of the public through its sustained prestige among the vast unorganized masses. The cells must teach new members the technique of working among the people. The new members usually lack experience in group activities and in social contacts.

The cells must understand the living conditions of the public, must listen to its demands, and recognize the degree of its political consciousness and determination through the close day-to-day contacts. The cells must study how to make the public understand and accept the party tenets and slogans. The cells must make all their members realize the power of the public and thoroughly comprehend that only with the help of the public can the party grow. Only by working among the people can the members gain training and experience in organizing, indoctrinating, and leading the masses.

## 2. Recruiting and Assimilating New Members

The shop cells are the basic organizations which recruit and assimilate party members. The cells must constantly train the old members in the methods of recruiting new members. Membership recruiting is the basic process of enlarging the party's strength, guaranteeing the party's growth, and accelerating the development of the mass movement. The recruiting of new members is the most important duty of the cells and cell members.

The social conditions in North Korea today are highly favorable for party growth. Great progress is already being made in democratic land reform, labor legislations, and legislation for women. This has stimulated and guaranteed the growth of democratic powers as exemplified in the rapid development of democratic politics, democratic economy, democratic culture, and above all, of democratic government.

But, the problem to which the NKLP must pay more careful attention is the screening of new members, because of the possibility that many different kinds of reactionary elements may infiltrate the party. We must watch out for the infiltration of undesirable pro-Japanese and fascist elements working for the South Korean reactionary camp and the spies employed by imperialistic foreign powers. Each party member and each cell must strictly comply with the procedures of screening new members as prescribed by the party regulations.

The unity of the party depends on the strength of the cell life. Every cell must concentrate not only on recruiting new members, but also on enhancing the political quality of members through emphasis on their indoctrination. Both the quantity and quality of the members should contribute to the growth of the party.

## 3. Indoctrinating Members

The shop cells are the basic training schools for party members. Party members do not have any other place to receive ideological, functional, or organizational training. The NKLP is organized by the progressive elements of the working class who generally possess progressive ideals and are able to steer the people toward common objectives. However, in the light of the immediate task of establishing a nation and the consequent necessity for a broader development in mass movement and with the increasing responsibilities of party members, the cell committees must further strengthen the indoctrination of party members.

The indoctrination at the cell level begins with thought education and literary education, to enhance members' political concepts and cultural level. Except for the cadres, the political and cultural levels of NKLP members seem to be below the standards that present-day Korea calls for. It is the task of

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every cell must be able to grasp the scientific view of the world, how to analyze the tasks assigned to them, how to demonstrate creative abilities, and how to serve the best interests of the working people. The committees must also increase the cultural level of the party members and exterminate illiteracy in the party by systematic education.

#### Guiding Cell Life

The local party branches can guide the cells properly only when each branch clearly recognizes the nature of the society in which each cell has its foundation. Each local party branch must, if it is to maintain leadership, adopt the policy peculiarly suited to each of the cells which are organized and rooted in factories, mines, railroads, plants, farms, villages, streets, people's committees, schools, and various other social groups.

The activities of each local party branch are judged mainly by how it guides its cells. To guide properly the cells under its jurisdiction, each local branch must know the social environment which surrounds every cell, as well as the social background, political concepts, cultural level, and the social contacts of each member. Each local branch must constantly inspect the cells under its jurisdiction, to know how each cell is carrying out the propaganda and dissemination of the party tenets and covenants, how they interpret and execute the party policies and instructions, and how they treat the public. If local branches, in cell guidance, do not carry their work beyond the delivery of instructions from a higher unit, or merely guide the cells by means of written directives, then they cannot avoid the unfortunate tendency of neglecting the cells. Such a tendency must be strictly avoided.

The last problem is that of cell guidance by the shop cell committees. The committee members have in direct contact with and work among the organized cell members. The shop cell committees must be thoroughly familiar with the political activity and the living conditions of cell members. The committees must listen to the demands of the cell members and formulate guiding plans on the basis of such demands. The committees must carefully watch the political trends and the economic demands and use them as guidance for later propaganda purposes. Internally, the cell committee must maintain the unity of the shop cells with proper indoctrination members, increase the working ability of the members, and create a proper relationship between the members and the public. Externally, the committees must enhance the prestige of the party before the public, consolidate the public which surrounds the party, and stimulate the growth of the party.

The cell committees in farms and villages must make positive efforts to increase farm products, and obtain payment of taxes in kind, so that the land-reform program may achieve the best results. The committees which are rooted in each people's committee, school, and cultural organization must take the leading roles in the functions of the democratic regime and the cultural movements to solidify and expand the foundation of the People's Republic.

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